(c) if so, whether he is in his budget speech has promised financial support for speeding up irrigation schemes; and

(d) if so, to what extent the Ministry of Finance is considering report of CAG for poor utilization of funds of the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) CAG report mentioned that against the total funds of Rs. 18,905.57 crores available, reported expenditure under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme was Rs. 13,823.05 crores(73.11 percent) during the period 1996—2000.

(b) 29 out of 181 projects receiving assistance under the programme have been completed by March, 2004.

(c) Yes, Sir. Finance Minister in his Budget Speech for 2004-05 announced restructuring of the programme. Truly last mile projects that can be completed by March, 2005 will be given overriding priority, and other projects that can be completed by March, 2006 will also be taken up in the current year. Next year the goal post would be moved to March, 2007, the year after that to March, 2008 and so on. A sum of Rs. 2800 crores has been provided to the AIBP this year.

(d) The State Governments are accountable to their State Legislatures for proper utilization of funds.

Education cess

2157. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of HRD has forwarded a detailed proposal worth Rs. 3,950 crores for additional expenditure to be met from the proposed Education Cess;

(b) if so, when such a proposal was received; and

(c) what action Government propose to take in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Ministry of Human Resource Development has forwarded a proposal for allocation of additional funds for Nutritional Support to Primary Education (MDM) and Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.

(b) and (c) Lumpsum allocation has been made in the Ministry of

Planning for new/restructured schemes to subserve the objectives of the National Common Minimum Programme. Crucial programmes like Nutritional Support to Primary Education (MDM) and Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan will be accorded priority while allocation from this lumpsum provision is finalised by Planning Commission.

Loans advanced by Banks

2158. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased state:

(a) the details of new branches opened by nationalised banks and private banks in rural sector during the last three years;

(b) what is the amount of credit advanced by banks in the rural sector during the last three years; and

(c) the details of various heads under which loans have been advanced by banks during the last three years, *viz* personal loan, housing loan and loan advance for productive purposes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) RBI has reported that 497,815 and 771 branches were opened by the public and private sector banks during the years 2001-02,2002-03 and 2003-04 respectively.

(b) As reported by RBI, the credit advanced by the Scheduled Commercial Banks by their rural and semi-urban branches during the last three years are given below:

(Rs. in crore)

Period		Credit by Semi-urban branches (outstanding)	Credit by Rural branches (outstanding)
As on March 31	2002	73355	65700
As on March 31	2003	84684	74776
As on March 31	2004	101354	85244

(c) Details of credit given under various heads/occupations during the last three years both by the public sector banks and private sector banks are given in the Statement (See below).